

Molly Brant, sister of Chief Joseph, was a woman of talent as well as tact. She possessed great influence among the Indians, and was aided by the counsels of her brother, Capt. Brant, who spent much of his time with Sir William Johnson during the latter years of his life. She was careful of the education of her children, and her descendants from Sir W. Johnson may be classed amongst some of the most respectable families in the Province.

As there is much of romance connected with her first acquaintance with Sir William, it may prove interesting as a link in Brant's history.

"Molly was a very sprightly and beautiful Indian girl of sixteen when he first saw her. It was at a regimental militia muster, where she was one of the spectators. A field officer coming near her upon a prancing steed, by way of banter she asked permission to mount behind him. Not supposing she could, he said she might. At the word she leaped upon the crupper with the agility of a gazelle. The horse sprang off at full speed, and, clinging to the officer, her blanket flying, and her dark tresses streaming in the wind, she flew about the parade-ground swift as an arrow, to the merriment of all. The Baronet, who was an eye-witness, admiring the spirit of the young girl, and becoming enamored of her person, took her home as his wife."

PRESENT CONDITION OF THE INDIANS.

Formerly all Indians lived in wigwams, and subsisted by hunting and fishing. Hundreds, nay thousands, still pagans, are no better off at the present time. But it is a matter of gratitude to Almighty God that through the labors of zealous and excellent missionaries, the religion of Jesus has done much to reform the moral, social, and domestic habits of these once degraded races. The women, who formerly were slaves to the men, have no longer the drudgery and hard work to perform, but are living in comfortable cottages, neatly clothed, and enjoying that peace which the religion of Jesus alone can give. The sober and industrious men are making

considerable progress in farming; many of them grow wheat, oats, peas, Indian corn, &c. &c., have small orchards, and cut considerable hay. But as the Indian possesses no *Title Deed* for his lands, he has only a life interest in them—a circumstance materially tending to check that spirit of enterprise which stimulates the white farmer in working and laying up for his family.

Excepting the protection of law, which every alien who resides in Her Majesty's Dominion claims, Indians do not possess any civil or political rights as British subjects. As many of them possess strong native talents, powers of foresight, quick and accurate observation, conjoined in many instances with extraordinary personal influence and persuasive faculties, why they should not participate in all the blessings of British North American subjects, and with their white neighbors enjoy permanent security of their landed possessions, is a query for our rulers and great men to solve.

As fast as the white man approaches the Indian reserves, the value of land greatly increases, and in many instances land speculators have not suffered the poor Indian to rest, until by some artifice or other, they have prevailed on them to quit their settlements and seek fresh homes in the far-off West. Many arguments have been advanced with the plausibility of philanthropic intentions, that by such removals they were rendering the Indian service; but the fallacy of such reasoning is evident.

If while under the counsel of those who sincerely desire their advancement and improvement, they still feel the influence of those whose aim is to injure and demoralize, what will their condition be benefited when driven far beyond the power of Christian example and restraint?

The Indians within our Provinces are well aware of the advantages of civilization, and desire to improve in arts and knowledge, so that they may participate in our privileges. It is a matter of congratulation that in many of the settlements efforts are now made to encourage and bring forward by the system of competition, those who